

the guardian

B Wurtz: Selected works 1970-2015 review – everyday rubbish reimagined

By Laura Cumming

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead From painted takeaway cartons to plastic bag trees, California artist B Wurtz wants us to take a close, loving look a



Tray chic: B Wurtz's brightly painted takeaway cartons and roasting trays at the Baltic. Photograph: John McKenzie © 2015 Baltic

Something out of nothing – that is what the California artist B Wurtz creates. He is a conjuror and cobbler of junk. A master of balance and composition, he can turn the most unprepossessing rubbish into graceful works of art. What we might simply throw away – carrier bags, shoelaces, used plastic, old buttons – Wurtz zealously preserves in sculptures of delicate beauty and wit. He is a champion of